
From: Kathleen Satnik [mailto:krdwq@elltel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 10:34 AM
To: Dinicola, Karen
Subject: KCWP comment on MS4 February 14th draft

Dear Ms. Dinicola:

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) is a local consortium of the main irrigation water companies, districts, and systems in the area around the towns of Cle Elum, Ellensburg, and Kittitas. The KCWP is dedicated to cooperative water quality monitoring and improvements, as well as other irrigation water related matters.

The KCWP was represented at the public meeting in Ellensburg on March 14th at the Hal Holmes Center. The following comments are based on information derived from the presentation, from conversation with you and others following the presentation, as well as information provided on the Washington State Department of Ecology's website.

Comment One:

Irrigation canals and their associated laterals and branches are linear features that span hundreds of miles in our county. As we discussed after the meeting, it is not beneficial to the environment, economy, or human health to manage the entire length of a canal system when a canal is only located in an urbanized area for a short length. The purveyor should be issued a waiver, especially as the development surrounding canals is typically much younger than the canal itself and thus should have its own stormwater plan per county regulations. At the very least, the canal should only have to be permitted for the length of canal within the urbanized area, not the entire span of the canal system itself.

Comment Two:

The proposed cost of the permit, \$1,500 yearly, is cost prohibitive for most/all eastern Washington irrigation entities--it is certainly more than any of KCWP's entities could pay. We hope that Ecology will follow through on their assurances that the permit cost will be brought into line with local economies.

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